War Diary II - Derealization

A ROXY A
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> *"Betting your life away in a mist,*
>
> *maybe I'm lost & maybe in bliss."*
>
> *Erode* by Eternal Sunshine

Not dead yet, for better or for worse. Despite speculation from some of you, I'm not in the Donbas. I will be in training until maybe December.

To start, I set up a donation page since about a dozen of you have reached out to offer support. All funds will be used for equipment & other necessities, excess funds will be given to other Azov fighters. I'm not going to beg for money, but won't say no either.

DONATIONS

Training is good, all at the same level or better than the Marine Corps. I would be having fun if I hadn't already been doing most of it for the last 4 years. The medical training is surprisingly high level. Medics are few & far between, on top of most missions being at the team & squad level, so many tasks previously reserved for them have been shifted to individual soldiers. The tactical training is based on the US system, but it's fun to notice where Soviet tactics have bled through every now & then.

Most of the instructors are cool, a lot of 2014 era Azov fighters that have been on the front lines for over a decade. The foreign instructors all have lengthy records with other units & experience from Bakhmut, Izyum, etc. I met Vegas, who's a moderately popular Youtuber.

The only danger so far is that our training area is constantly being harassed by reconnaissance drones, & occasionally hit with Shaheds. The bunker isn't vulnerable to them, so they're more of a nuisance. Regardless, we're counting down the days until they find out that we're both Azov & internationals & send an Iskander to absolve us of our sins.

The other recruits are cool, most being former US & NATO servicemen. There's a couple people who will definitely be taking point in every minefield until they're no longer an issue, but that's a rarity. They usually breakdown & quit training before making it to the Brigade. Some of the more colorful characters include a Taiwanese man who fought with the French Foreign Legion & a Moroccan who has videos of himself beheading someone (he won't give context). Even the guys who are showing up off the street have some interesting backstories.

As usual, the crowd is overwhelmingly antisocial, nihilistic & chronically bored. This is normal in any combat unit, but even more pronounced here given the amount of effort it takes to actually come out. No one has any delusions of returning home to a hero's welcome, or returning at all. The only concern is collecting patches & taking selfies with POWs. For the first time in my life, I'm not the most mentally questionable person in the room. None of these creatures have any place in a civilized society, the last of a dying breed.

The punishments are pretty cool, some dumbasses broke the no drinking rule & had to live in a hole outside without food for 3 days. We could fix a lot of issues back in the Marines if they'd let us actually punish shitbags like that.

As for my personal experience, refer to the title. Nothing really seems to matter anymore. Every political argument sounds annoying & faggy. Not a single video on Youtube seems like anything other than a waste of time. I saw an Instagram post from an old friend about his new job, I stared at it for a few minutes thinking *"Really? Working in the shop of a Ford dealership is the peak of your life at 23 years old?"* All of the posts, as well as updates from family members, come of this way. It all seems so pointless, petty. I feel like a parent with financial problems talking to an 8 year old about what they learned at school, but like an abusive parent halfway through a bottle of Jaeger.

Longtime readers & friends will already know that I'm a fairly nihilistic person, but this is a new level. Maybe it's tunnel vision, maybe this is just growing up the hard way, I've effectively cleansed anything political from my Twitter timeline, the only thing I care about is combat footage, aesthetics & hot women. Fun fact, hypersexuality is one of the most common 'disorders' in military & first responders. There's something poetic in that.

> *"It's a thin line between all this love & hate."*
>
> -Ellie Goulding

One of the Azov instructors made a statement that will probably be tattooed into my skin eventually - *"A good assaulter is one who knows he's already dead."* It's quite a feeling, living in a world where your life is counted in cigarettes. On the bright side, I will at least get to see the snow once more. An ideal death, aesthetically speaking, would be propped up on a tree, in a pool of blood, with one last cigarette as the sun sets. We should all be so lucky.

After leaving the Marines, I stopped shaving & now have a few inches of beard growth. My hair is long enough that I need to periodically shake my head to get my bangs out of my eyes. A rather harsh departure from the low fade & clean cut look I had in the Marines. I've had to show my passport to 7 different people who simply refused to believe that I'm 22, all of them thinking I was in my 30's. It's a good symbolic shift in my aesthetic, I feel it makes me look more animalistic.

Rereading all of that, I realized it comes across very depressing. This has been an issue with my communication all my life. I don't know how to explain it but this all a positive emotion.

Hail Victory.

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ArmUndHammer 5h
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